

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 09/582,950

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification, after the title page:

This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT/US99/00419 filed January 8, 1999,  
which claims priority to U.S. provisional applications nos. 60/071,070 filed January 9, 1998 and  
60/111,531 filed December 9, 1999. <sup>1998</sup>